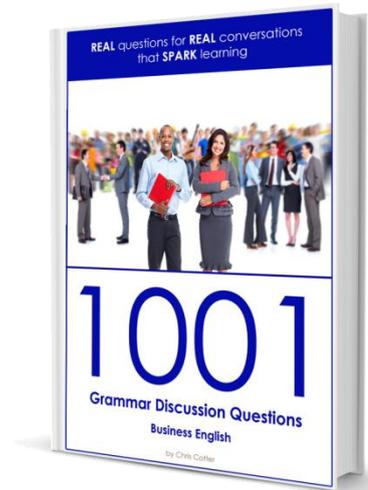
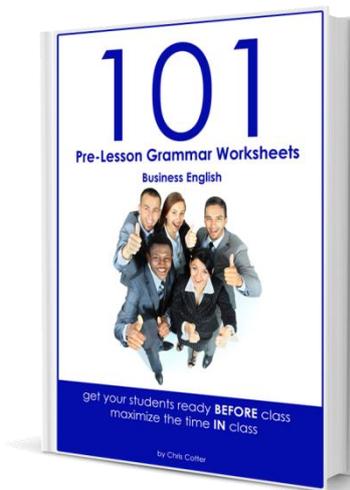
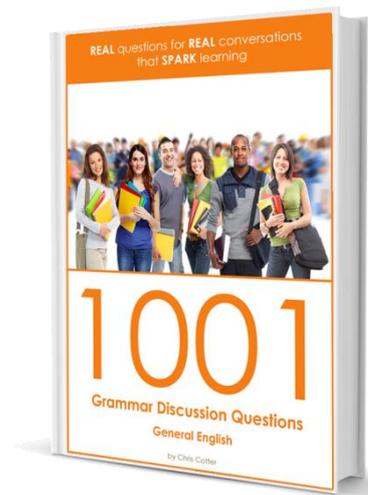
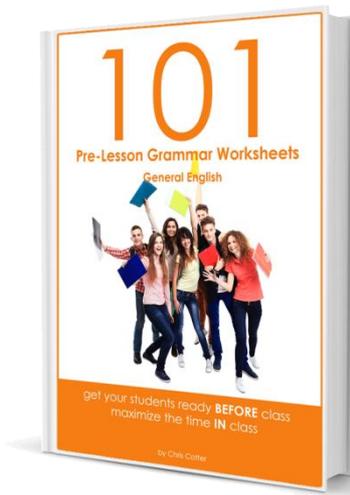
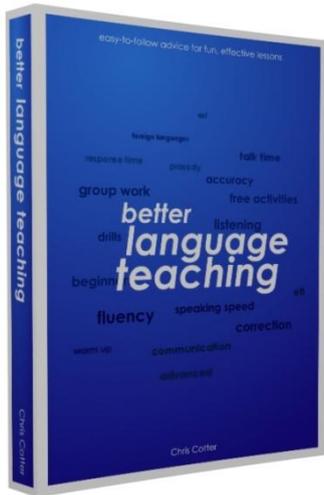


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the ARTICLE (for teachers)

Wikipedia as an Educational Tool

Wikipedia is an online encyclopedia in which anyone with an Internet connection can add new entries or amend existing ones. There are more than ten million articles in over 253 languages, a behemoth when compared to a well-established encyclopedia such as Britannica, which has only 500,000 entries. But given the fact that anyone can make changes to the content, specious and subjective information can and does appear. University professors have been inclined to forbid students from using the source, at least until now.

At the University of British Columbia, Jon Beasley-Murray allowed his students to write entries for the online encyclopedia in lieu of the usual term paper assignment. One student said it was initially daunting to work online, where anyone could watch. But she found the assignment exciting and meaningful, significantly more so than a term paper which often gets filed away forgotten once the semester ends. A second student revised his entry 1,000 times, and a third student regularly slaved away at the project until the early hours of the morning.

As a means to improve the quality of the content, Wikipedia has begun to run featured articles each day on its homepage. Featured articles "provide thorough, well-written coverage of their content, supported by many peer-reviewed publications." Of all the entries at Wikipedia, only about 2,000 have been designated for this top rank, a very small percentage of the total. It's an issue of great concern to the encyclopedia.

Beasley-Murray's class did quite well. Of the students who took up the assignment, three entries worked on by nine students made featured article status. Unfortunately, a few students had their work instantly deleted by other users. Overall, though, most agreed that it was a great learning experience.

Teacher's Notes:

* Underlined words in red typeface are the recommended vocabulary for this lesson.

WARM-UPS

Select one or all of the following warm-up activities.

1: Define: What does "encyclopedia" mean? Can you use it in a sentence? Can you give examples?

2: Brainstorm: Brainstorm with a partner(s) words and ideas associated with "Wikipedia" for 2 minutes. Spend another 5 minutes or less discussing the words and ideas together.

3: Title: Speculate and/or discuss the contents of today's article from its title: "Wikipedia as an Educational Tool."

4: Speculate: Write in the missing word for today's article title: "() as an Educational ()." Why did you choose these words for the blanks?

5: Do you agree or disagree? Why?

a.	I often contribute to blogs and forums on the Internet.
b.	I would like to write an article or a blog on a topic I know very well.
c.	The Internet is my main source of news and information.
d.	There's a lot of interesting information on the Internet, but it's not suitable for academia.
e.	The Internet will become an important teaching tool in the future.

VOCABULARY

Select one of the following vocabulary acquisition activities.

1: Vocabulary match: Individually or in pairs/groups, match the words in column A (from the article) with the best choice in column B.

a.	amend	q.	false
b.	behemoth	r.	revise
c.	specious	s.	in depth
d.	subjective	t.	instead
e.	incline	u.	classify
f.	in lieu	v.	giant
g.	daunt	w.	work
h.	slave away	x.	judgmental
i.	thorough	y.	tend
j.	designate	z.	intimidate

2: Fill in the Blanks: Fill in the blank with the correct word.

	subjective	designated	behemoth	amend	slaved away
	in lieu	inclined	thorough	daunting	specious
a.	Wikipedia is an online encyclopedia in which anyone can add new entries or () existing ones.				
b.	The encyclopedia is a () with more than ten million articles in over 253 languages.				
c.	But given the fact that anyone can make changes to the content, () information can appear.				
d.	() information appears, too.				
e.	University professors have been () to forbid students from using the source, at least until now.				
f.	Students wrote entries for the online encyclopedia () of the usual term paper assignment.				
g.	One student said it was initially () to work online, where anyone could watch.				
h.	Another student regularly () at the project until the early hours of the morning.				
i.	Featured articles "provide (), well-written coverage of their content."				
j.	Of all the entries at Wikipedia, only about 2,000 have been () for this top rank .				

3: Define: Define each word, correctly pronounce it, explain the meaning and/or usage, and offer an example sentence to the class.

a.	amend	c.	specious	e.	incline	g.	daunt	i.	thorough
b.	behemoth	d.	subjective	f.	in lieu	h.	slave away	j.	designate

WORD RECOGNITION

1: Word Search: Find the target words (in bold). Time yourself, and see how many words you can find in three minutes. In five minutes. In ten minutes.

subjective in lieu	designated inclined	behemoth thorough	amend daunting	slaved away specious
E P L S X D D B K J D G B I A G V M F U Z V E X A E S E X D N X I K Y A M E S K T S H R I I B H T K B K A D I A C E Y X T K W C C E S X F Y N I M T H N S L A V E A W A Y G A O U N U I I R H P J W B Q I V T V Q A N J N O G A B S X S P H E I D L Z M L D U U U A E E V N D M E U F E I O O M S D J C F U X I I V K I E E R A V L W H H T U A J C D N U X O I O B V P G L U E N D G I X N H P A G Q S S P E C I O S E W U T L S A V S H U I O J D U P W F D K K				

2: Target Word Pool: Find the target words (in bold) with their exact match. Time yourself, and see how many words you can find in three minutes. In five minutes. In ten minutes.

subjective in lieu	designated inclined	behemoth thorough	amend daunting	slaved away specious
slave away speculate inclination slaving away beholden subject inking amending in love thorough inclined inadmissible thought resigned undaunted subjectivism specious designate behemoths subjected loofah designation in lieu salivate amend designed species daunted behooved inclining subjectively daunt dauntless in-laws thoroughly designated enslaved in law amendment slaved away suspicious thoroughness behavior subjective daunting amended behemoth inclines speciously though				

pre- or post-COMPREHENSION

1: Word Association: Brainstorm words associated with today's topic for two minutes. Present to the class.

2: Brainstorm Questions: Brainstorm questions that you would like to ask about today's topic. Answer the questions without looking at the article.

3: True or False?: Guess (before the article) or answer (after the article) whether the sentence is true or false. If false, correct the sentence.

a.	Anyone with an Internet connection can contribute to Wikipedia.	T / F
b.	Wikipedia and Britannica have a comparable number of entries.	T / F
c.	Students at universities can now use Wikipedia.	T / F
d.	Wikipedia wants to improve the quality of their articles.	T / F
e.	Some students from Beasley-Murray's class had their work become featured articles.	T / F

4: Questions: Answer the questions to check comprehension.

a.	What is Wikipedia?
b.	Why don't universities usually let students use the online encyclopedia?
c.	What happened at the University of British Columbia?
d.	According to the article, how did the students feel about writing entries for Wikipedia?
e.	What requirements are needed for feature article status?

5: Vocabulary: In pairs/groups, remember how the words were used in today's article.

a.	amend	c.	specious	e.	inclined	g.	daunting	i.	thorough
b.	behemoth	d.	subjective	f.	in lieu	h.	slaved away	j.	designated

6: Fragments: Remember how the fragments were used, and complete the sentence from today's article.

a.	At the University of British Columbia, Jon Beasley-Murray allowed his students to write...
b.	A second student revised his entry 1,000 times, and a third student...
c.	As a means to improve the quality of the content, Wikipedia has begun...
d.	Of all the entries at Wikipedia, only about 2,000 have been...
e.	Of the students who took up the assignment...

post-COMPREHENSION

1: Vocabulary: Circle any additional unknown words/phrases in the article. In pairs/groups, use your dictionaries to understand the meanings. Present to the class.

2: Class Questions: Read through the article once more, and write down any questions that you would like to discuss in pairs/groups or as a class. Discuss.

3: Summarize: Work with a partner to summarize the article in your own words.

4: Discuss: Talk about the following questions in pairs/groups. Remember to support your answers!

a.	Did you like this article?
b.	What was your general impression after reading this article?
c.	What do you know about Wikipedia? Do you use the site often?
d.	Would you ever consider (or have you considered) writing for Wikipedia? Why/not?
e.	Would you ever consider (or have you considered) writing a blog for others to read? Why/not?
f.	Do you think Wikipedia is a useful tool for teaching? Why/not?
g.	If you were a professor, would you allow students to use Wikipedia for term papers and essays?
h.	If you were a professor, would you allow students to use information from the Internet? Why/not?
i.	Do you think the Internet will become a key resource for education in the future? Why/not?
j.	What will education be like in the future?

5: Discuss: How can Wikipedia be used to study English? Work with a partner to brainstorm five activities that use Wikipedia. Next rank each activity in order of usefulness, and think of the pluses and minuses of each activity. Lastly, compare your answers with another pair of students.

Activity:	Rank:	Pluses and Minuses:

6: Google Search: Type "Wikipedia" into Google news and read additional articles on this topic. Discuss or write an essay about your findings.

STUDENT HANDOUT (the article)

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Notes:

STUDENT HANDOUT (fill in the blank)

Fill in the blank with the correct word.

inclined	connection	thorough	behemoth	in lieu
designated	specious	daunting	experience	status
slaved away	amend	meaningful	reviewed	subjective

Wikipedia as an Educational Tool

Wikipedia is an online encyclopedia in which anyone with an Internet (a. _____) can add new entries or (b. _____) existing ones. There are more than ten million articles in over 253 languages, a (c. _____) when compared to a well-established encyclopedia such as Britannica, which has only 500,000 entries. But given the fact that anyone can make changes to the content, (d. _____) and (e. _____) information can and does appear. University professors have been (f. _____) to forbid students from using the source, at least until now.

At the University of British Columbia, Jon Beasley-Murray allowed his students to write entries for the online encyclopedia (g. _____) of the usual term paper assignment. One student said it was initially (h. _____) to work online, where anyone could watch. But she found the assignment exciting and (i. _____), significantly more so than a term paper which often gets filed away forgotten once the semester ends. A second student revised his entry 1,000 times, and a third student regularly (j. _____) at the project until the early hours of the morning.

As a means to improve the quality of the content, Wikipedia has begun to run featured articles each day on its homepage. Featured articles "provide (k. _____), well-written coverage of their content, supported by many peer-(l. _____) publications." Of all the entries at Wikipedia, only about 2,000 have been (m. _____) for this top rank, a very small percentage of the total. It's an issue of great concern to the encyclopedia.

Beasley-Murray's class did quite well. Of the students who took up the assignment, three entries worked on by nine students made featured article (n. _____). Unfortunately, a few students had their work instantly deleted by other users. Overall, though, most agreed that it was a great learning (o. _____).

STUDENT HANDOUT (extended listening)

Listen and fill in the missing sentences. Compare your answers with a partner, and then listen once more.

Wikipedia as an Educational Tool

a) _____ . There are more than ten million articles in over 253 languages, a behemoth when compared to a well-established encyclopedia such as Britannica, which has only 500,000 entries. But given the fact that anyone can make changes to the content, specious and subjective information can and does appear. b) _____ , at least until now.

At the University of British Columbia, Jon Beasley-Murray allowed his students to write entries for the online encyclopedia in lieu of the usual term paper assignment. One student said it was initially daunting to work online, where anyone could watch. But she found the assignment exciting and meaningful, c) _____ . A second student revised his entry 1,000 times, and a third student regularly slaved away at the project until the early hours of the morning.

As a means to improve the quality of the content, Wikipedia has begun to run featured articles each day on its homepage. Featured articles "d) _____ ." Of all the entries at Wikipedia, only about 2,000 have been designated for this top rank, a very small percentage of the total. It's an issue of great concern to the encyclopedia.

Beasley-Murray's class did quite well. Of the students who took up the assignment, three entries worked on by nine students made featured article status. Unfortunately, e) _____ . Overall, though, most agreed that it was a great learning experience.

STUDENT HANDOUT (notes)

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary

1. Vocabulary Match:

a.	r	f.	t
b.	v	g.	z
c.	q	h.	w
d.	x	i.	s
e.	y	j.	u

2. Fill in the Blanks:

a.	amend	f.	in lieu
b.	behemoth	g.	daunting
c.	specious	h.	slaved away
d.	subjective	i.	thorough
e.	inclined	j.	designated

pre- or post-Comprehension

1. True or False:

a.	T
b.	F
c.	F
d.	T
e.	T

2. Fragments:

a.	entries for the online encyclopedia in lieu of the usual term paper assignment.
b.	regularly slaved away at the project until the early hours of the morning.
c.	to run featured articles each day on its homepage.
d.	designated for this top rank, a very small percentage of the total.
e.	three entries worked on by nine students made featured article status.

Student Handout

1. Fill in the Blanks

a.	connection	i.	meaningful
b.	amend	j.	slaved away
c.	behemoth	k.	thorough
d.	specious	l.	reviewed
e.	subjective	m.	designated
f.	inclined	n.	status
g.	in lieu	o.	experience
h.	daunting		

2. Extended Listening

a.	Wikipedia is an online encyclopedia in which anyone with an Internet connection can add new entries or amend existing ones
b.	University professors have been inclined to forbid students from using the source
c.	significantly more so than a term paper which often gets filed away forgotten once the semester ends
d.	provide thorough, well-written coverage of their content, supported by many peer-reviewed publications
e.	a few students had their work instantly deleted by other users